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ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

July 1953 - June 1954

TORONTO



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CONTENTS

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME	1
Work in the Galleries	
Study-Storage Rooms	
Special Exhibitions	
Loans	
Disposals and Exchanges	
Circulation	
STAFF OF THE MUSEUM	5
Changes and Appointments	
Research and Special Work of the Staff	
Publications	
Lectures	
Visitors to the Museum	
Activities outside Toronto	
Excavation	
Ontario Textile Research	
REPORTS FROM SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS	12
Report of the Chief Preparator	
Report of the Chief Cataloguer	
Report of the Library	
Report of the Textile Study Room	
Report of the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Collection	
RECOMMENDATIONS	20
PRINCIPAL ACQUISITIONS	23
Far Eastern Department	
Ethnology Department	
Near Eastern Department	
Greek & Roman Department	
Modern European Department	
Textile Department	
Canadiana Department	

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

July 1953 - June 1954

Most of the year reported on here was dominated by Mr. Grant Glassco and the Survey of the Museum that he made for the University Board of Governors. He interviewed the Director and all the Heads of Departments in the Museum, and we were all impressed by the interest he took in our work and our problems. This year was thus spent more or less in the limbo of uncertainty, and the staff awaits the appearance of Mr. Glassco's report with great interest.

A

Exhibition Programme

1. Work in the Galleries

The gallery work carried out during this year was completed during the first six months of it. As I reported a year ago, it has proved necessary to allow a year without gallery reorganisation to enable other pressing work to be completed. 1954 has therefore been a blank for regular work of this kind.

The major reorganisation of the Eskimo galleries was continued through a further stage, but is not yet completed. Less extensive work has been carried out in a number of the Chinese galleries on the top floor; in all four galleries of the Textile Department; and in the first Egyptian, the West Asia, and the Egyptian jewellery galleries. In the Textile Department the regular rotation of the display of 19th century costume, English embroideries, the Hearne, Krenz and Ontario Textile collections was carried out. In the Near Eastern Department the change has been in part the result of exhibiting the two Metjetjy reliefs given us a year ago by the Reuben Wells Leonard Foundation; and in part a continued rearrangement of the West Asia Gallery so as to make the most of that branch of the Museum's collection.

A mural of the painted tomb at Tarquinia was completed on the wall of the Etruscan gallery by Miss Sylvia Hahn. A new display of some of the pieces of Greek and Roman jewellery has been arranged.

One further event has taken place in our galler-

ies and must be mentioned here. I refer to the programme of painting the gallery walls undertaken by the Superintendent's Department. This made progress during the early months of 1954; five ground floor and six main floor galleries were completed, and are a great improvement. An overall plan for the introduction of colour - varying it according to the gallery - has been made out, a change from the previous plan of having all seventy odd galleries in the Museum painted the same shade. It is to be hoped that the Superintendent will continue with this plan as circumstances allow him to do so.

2. Study-Storage Rooms

The study room of the Far Eastern Department has been in use for various purposes throughout this year. Mrs. Edgar Stone came as a Special Assistant in the Department after Mr. Sutherland's departure, and was put in charge of it, and a general plan for the allocation of shelves and cupboards worked out.

The chief project in the Textile Study Room has been the reorganisation of the Costume Collection. This is a slow process, since the usefulness of each item has to be considered. Much of it, mostly early acquisitions, has gone into dead storage; very little could be disposed of. Also in the Textile Study Room there has been tabulation of material and reorganisation of study collections, especially the Chinese material, English embroideries and Ontario textiles. The aim of this was to make more space, but here as everywhere else space is still at a premium.

Two further study-storage rooms were completed, for the Near Eastern and the Greek & Roman Departments respectively. Their formation out of part of the old Prehistoric Gallery was approved by the Museum Board in November 1953. Emergency requirements have meant that these two rooms are not in proper use yet. Their completion will mean that each of the six Departments in the Museum has one study-storage room of its own. This will be an improvement in working conditions, and should make the storage problems easier. Whether one such room will be enough in every case is a question that remains to be answered.

3. Special Exhibitions

There have been three special exhibitions this year, the first, "West and East", was the counterpart of "East and West" referred to a year ago. It was opened in October 1953 and closed in March 1954, and was aimed at covering, as far as could be done from the Museum's own collections, the general theme of influence, either arti-

stic or technical, of the West on the East. The dividing line between the two was again our imaginary line north and south through Bombay.

The second, "Sweet Water - Great Lakes 1522 to 1703", was a loan exhibition from the map collection of Dr. Alexander MacDonald of Toronto. It was on view from March to May 1954, and its aim was to trace the gradual increase in the white man's knowledge of Canada as a whole, the Great Lakes area in particular, in so far as it was revealed in maps. A small illustrated booklet, written by Dr. MacDonald and containing an introduction and a detailed list of the maps included, was published in connection with the show.

The summer exhibition of 1954 is under the title "Indonesia Today". The basis of this is a large collection of photographs sent to the Museum by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. Three-dimensional material, both from the Museum's own collection and borrowed from private owners for this purpose, has been included.

Departmental exhibitions on a smaller scale have been arranged in the Textile Galleries by the members of that Department. In May an exhibition of bride's and bridesmaid's dresses and accessories was arranged by Miss Vera Clark. It covered the period from the beginning of the 19th century until 1928.

A small exhibit on Ontario Textiles was arranged in connection with the annual meeting of the Canadian Wool and Knitwork Manufacturers' Association, in October 1953.

The Object of the Month policy was continued throughout the year. The objects shown have been the following:

Painted wood models of donkeys and drivers,
Egyptian, 12th dynasty. July
Lacquered wood Buddha, Japanese, Fujiwara
period. August
Watch by Ambrose Bliss, 1650. September
Winged lion, Neo-Babylonian, from the Ishtar
Gate, about 600 B.C. October-February
White marble statue of Buddha Sakyamuni,
Chinese, Yüan. March
Painted wood funerary portrait of a lady,
Roman, 2nd to 3rd century. April
Limestone wall plaque of Metjetjy,
Egyptian, about 2400 B.C. May
Ryijya rug, Finnish, 1823. June

4. Loans

a. Objects lent to the Museum

Near Eastern Department. 16 Mesopotamian cylinder seals, lent by Dr. Borowski.

Textile Department. Wedding dress, 1921, lent by Mrs. Louis Schmunk. Wedding veil, lent by Mrs. T. T. Delamere. Irish linen bedspread, 18th century, lent by Mrs. Nichols Holt. Jacquard coverlet dated 1834 and woven near Delamere, Ont., lent by Miss Florence Lyons (this is the earliest dated Ontario coverlet so far discovered. As such it is of great importance as an exhibit).

b. Objects lent by the Museum

A Chinese Shang ivory carving and carved white marble cup, lent to the Musée Cernuschi, Paris, for an exhibition in honour of the late René Grousset.

A large loan of Ethnological material was made to the M. H. de Young Memorial Gallery in San Francisco.

There have been a great many smaller loans to institutions in Toronto or in Ontario at large. The most striking, and perhaps most visited, was a loan of an exhibition case containing materials illustrating the times of Julius Caesar made in connection with the showing of the film of his life in the Towne Cinema.

The number of loans sent out by the Museum has increased greatly during the year. It is a valuable part of our work, since each loan means people outside Toronto interested in our Museum objects; but it is rapidly becoming a very time consuming one.

5. Disposals and Exchanges

Far Eastern Department. One of our many Chinese Shang oracle bone fragments was exchanged with the Seattle Art Museum for an ancient Japanese jade Nagatama. Negotiations are in process with the University Museum in Philadelphia and with the Philadelphia Museum of Art to exchange Chinese objects for examples of the Indian sculptural school of Mathura.

6. Circulation

At the very end of this year Miss Amice Calverley gave the Museum a large part of her collection of English porcelain. This was offered to and accepted by the Museum

on the understanding that it would be considered under three headings. One is of pieces to be kept for exhibition in our galleries; one of pieces for study in the Museum itself; and the third, and probably largest, of pieces suitable for circulation to other centres. It is the Museum's hope to use this collection to revive and extend the old system of circulating collections it used to run; and that this can be the basis of a circulating collection to be sent around all the centres in Ontario with Museums and art galleries which conform to our requirements for a loan.

B

Staff of the Museum

1. Changes and Appointments

The most important change during the year was the resignation of Mr. Stones from the Curatorship of the Modern European Department. Mr. Stones had come here a year before from Manchester, and returned to England; the resignation was chiefly on financial grounds. I was very sorry to see Mr. Stones go. I found him efficient and pleasant to deal with, and he was of the greatest use to me during his year here. His position has not been filled.

In the Far Eastern Department Mr. Sutherland resigned on financial grounds during October 1953. His position was taken temporarily by Miss Adelaide Lash Miller, an M.A. of this University. She left here in May 1954, and the position is now filled by Miss Barbara Burry, who had been working as an extra Assistant to Miss Fernald.

In the Textile Department Miss Mary Hahn was appointed Assistant in January 1954.

In the Preparator's Department Mr. Vanstone, an Apprentice here since 1949, is resigning at the end of the year.

2. Research and Special Work of the Staff

Work is progressing on the book on the Chinese collection for which the J. P. Bickell Foundation gave the Museum a grant. This in planning has passed through several stages. It was first to be a one-volume work; then a two-volume work; in the event it will probably be a three-volume one. The plan at present is to publish first a special volume on the Burial Figurines and Models, of which the Museum has one of the most comprehensive collec-

tions in the world. This project has been approved by the Bickell Foundation Committee, and work on it has been proceeding during the year; the majority of the photographs have been taken, the text partially completed, and its layout prepared for the publisher. It is hoped that the book will be in the hands of a publisher by the end of 1954. After that phase has been passed Miss Fernald will be able to resume her work on the other parts of the Chinese collection. I aim that the volume should be usable either in the Museum or out of it.

In November Miss Needler read a paper at the Oriental Club of Toronto on "The Function of Two-Dimensional Art in the Egyptian Old Kingdom". The project is of value in the study of the Museum's Egyptian Old Kingdom material; Miss Needler is continuing her research on it with a view to eventual publication. Later in that month she spoke to the Toronto Society of the Archaeological Institute of America on Ancient Abydos. She made mention of the Museum collection of material from Abydos, and of its historical background.

The end of this year should see the completion of an inventory list of the Chinese collection as a whole. This was originally begun by Bishop White and Miss Fernald about nine years ago, but the project had to be laid aside only partially completed. During this year Miss Lash Miller and Miss Burry took it on, and have worked through the exhibition material in all the Chinese galleries. Since the end of the University term, they have been helped by Mr. R. R. Loyer, of the Department of Art & Archaeology in this University. Mr. Moyer has been through the material in the bases of the exhibition cases. With this and the work in the Study-Storage room referred to above, the material in the collection has now been fully inventoried, case diagrams with case numbers and object catalogue numbers made, and previously uncatalogued objects catalogued and listed.

Work has continued leading towards the recataloguing of objects in most Departments, particularly the Textile Department, following the Curator's visit to Williamsburg and the Textile Collections in New York at the end of January. Work there has fallen under many heads - the Peruvian collection; the differences between Chinese and Japanese weaving; Japanese, Indian and Chinese export textiles; and other less important fields. I mention those in which final publication of the results achieved seems most likely.

The cataloguing system, as it affects the Far Eastern Department, has been greatly helped by the generous gift to that Department of two filing cabinets, from the Misses Ann and Margaret Laidlaw.

3. Publications

West-East, Bulletin No. 21 of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, a Bulletin-Catalogue of the Exhibition referred to above. Contributions by Miss H. E. Fernald and Mr. D. M. Sutherland.

Gerard Brett, The West-East Exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology (The Connoisseur, April 1954)

K. B. Brett, Chintz: an Influence of the East on the West, (Antiques, December 1953)

K. E. Kidd, The Excavation and Historical Identification of a Huron Ossuary, (American Antiquity, April 1953)

K. E. Kidd, Some Brief Notes on Historical and Archaeological Development in Ontario, (Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Central New York, February 1954)

W. Needler, A thirty-square Draught-Board in the Royal Ontario Museum, (Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, vol. 39, 1953)

F. St.G. Spendlove, Tee, a China Drink, (The Connoisseur, January 1954)

F. St.G. Spendlove, The Furniture of French Canada, (The Connoisseur Year Book, 1954)

F. St.G. Spendlove, The Canadian Watercolours of J. P. Cockburn, (The Connoisseur, April 1954)

4. Lectures

In April Mr. Herbert Maryon of the British Museum Research Laboratory visited the Museum. He gave two lectures sponsored by the Museum of Archaeology. These were "Founders and Metal Workers of the Early World" (sponsored in combination with the School of Graduate Studies) and "The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial".

Lectures have been given by members of the Museum staff in the Department of Art & Archaeology. The Museum staff has continued to contribute the fourth year

Honour Course on "The Applied Arts in Europe, A.D. 300 to 1800" to the syllabus of that Department. Lectures in the Textile Study Room were given by members of that Department to the Ontario College of Art, the Ryerson Institute, the Toronto School of Design; others outside the Museum building were also given.

The staff of this Museum contributed a number of lectures to three of the Museum's Extension courses "Life and Arts in England: 17th century", "Exploring Early Canada", and "Treasures of Chinese Art".

5. Visitors to the Museum

The reception of visitors and the replying to questions is an integral and important part of a public Museum's work. We welcome these queries, as all of them spring from an interest in the kind of thing we collect; but, as I have observed in previous reports, they do take up a great deal of the time of the staff. The demand is increasing yearly. The Far Eastern Department, as in the past, is the most visited. The Curator reports that during the last year the staff of the Department has dealt with four large groups; a large number of Scholars and Important Visitors; and 107 people bringing in 197 objects. Eight trips out of the Museum were made in order to see collections of Far Eastern objects. The staff is further finding that the correspondence and research entailed by mailed queries on our objects or what they illustrate have now become a major activity. The personal visit and the letter are both being replaced by the phone call, and the number of phoned requests of this particular kind was greater this year than ever before.

The Near Eastern Department makes a similar report. The requests for information on subjects related to the Near East, ancient and modern, and for the examination of objects submitted, continues to take a considerable amount of time.

6. Activities outside Toronto

Miss Fernald attended the joint meeting of the American Oriental Society and the Far Eastern Association in New York, April 13th to 15th. She also visited Museums and dealers in New York and Philadelphia.

In June Miss Needler went to New York and Boston to visit Museums, private collections, and dealers, and to pursue her research on the two Metjetjy reliefs.

Mrs. K. B. Brett and Mr. F. St.G. Spendlove both spoke at the Antiques Forum at Williamsburg, Virginia at

the end of January. These talks give a chance to acquaint a group of several hundreds from all over the United States with the existence of this Museum and something of what it contains.

Mrs. Brett also visited the Textile Collection at Williamsburg, at the Cooper Union in New York, and later at Winterthur, Delaware.

Miss Clark visited Pittsburg to study the American textiles comparable to our own early Ontario material. She also saw the Peruvian Exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The Museums Committee of the Ontario Historical Society has been active during this year. It held a Workshop Weekend in Jordan in April and there was a special Museum section of the Annual Meeting at Ottawa in June. Both these were attended by Miss Burt-Gerrans and Mr. Todd. They report that both meetings were well worth while, but that speaking to delegates who are without chemical or technical knowledge is a difficult task. Mr. Todd has therefore proposed to me that we, as the Provincial Museum most concerned, might ourselves establish a system of Workshop Weekends such as this, in which the delegates would be given the chance to do an actual job rather than listen to a description of it by someone else. In my opinion this is a valuable suggestion. I think we could do a good job for other people, and help ourselves by a system such as this.

7. Excavation

There was no money to finance archaeological work during the year, and consequently none was done.

8. Ontario Textile Research

Field work on this large project continues, but has been impeded by changes in the staff of the Textile Department. Two field trips have been made, one to Cumberland and Northumberland Counties, the other to Pelee Island. Miss Clark carried out both these pieces of research. Her report is as follows:

"Campbellford-Hastings Trip:

This field trip to Cumberland and Northumberland counties was a preliminary survey into this district to see what material there was. In retrospect it would appear that the district will prove rich in historical information on mills rather than in actual hand-woven

material. This is partly due to the district not being settled until later in the century, and partly to the abundance of water supply, which facilitated power for the establishment of mills. But hand-weaving in the form of yard goods for clothing, blankets, carpets, etc., was done.

At Hastings a cotton mill was built in 1861 which produced factory cotton and warp for hand-loomed. It was one of the earliest mills of its type in Canada. Also, in this year, the woollen factory was built which produced fulled cloth for men's work shirts and women's dresses. Gansey for underwear for men working in the shanties was also manufactured. It was made up and sold for twenty-five cents a pair.

In Campbellford we were fortunate in having the assistance of Mrs. H. A. Lawrie and Miss Lilian Benor, the Librarian, who had contacts in the district. Through them we obtained information and, to a lesser degree, saw actual examples of woven textiles.

Mrs. Gerald Marryat, whose name was given to us by Miss Benor, has done considerable research on the history of the county, and through her we were introduced to people in the district from whom we were able to obtain information. Coverlets, blankets and table linen were among the types of handwoven pieces seen.

In the Northumberland and Cumberland area, as in the Brockville district, people are not familiar with the Museum and its activities. This means that although we have introductions to individuals, each visit necessitates selling one's self and explaining the nature of our Textile Research project. Therefore it takes longer to cover the area, and the further we get from Toronto the greater the expense. In such areas it is necessary to notify people ahead of time through local papers and Women's Institute groups. To date, several local papers have run courtesy notices of our projects in their towns.

It is hoped that this year we will be able to do more work in the field, especially in the more easterly counties of the province. Last year, due to a shortage of funds and staff, we were unable to do as much as we wished. We are planning to return to Cumberland and Northumberland Counties in June to address a Women's Institute group at Westwood, and to do further field work and follow up the leads already listed in our files.

Lectures:

A lecture was given on May 4th, 1954, in Hamilton to a group of 14 members of the Weavers' Guild by Miss Vera Clark. Our Ontario Textiles Research project was the

subject for the evening, and examples from the Museum collection were used for the talk.

A lecture was given on January 10th by Mrs. Brett to the Agincourt Lady Lions on the development of this project. As the wrong projector was provided the lecture was given without illustrations. In a case of a rural group such as this it did not really matter, as they knew the type of material described.

For the first time a lecture was given to a University Extension course on Ontario Textiles. It was given in the Ontario Textile Gallery and the Textile Study Room, and provided an excellent opportunity to see the full range of the collection which is now a very important one.

Pelee Island:

October 29th to December 1st, 1953

On the Pelee Island trip five talks were given, two to the Women's Association, one to the 'Cottagers' Association and two to the Continuation School.

The Women's Association: Material from the Costume Collection was used as well as illustrations, tracing the development of 19th century costume up to and including the present day. Since Mrs. Macdonald moved to South America, this group has been less active. Another year I would suggest omitting it.

The Cottagers' Association: A similar lecture was given to this group, with emphasis on the revival of fashion detail.

The Continuation School: Here Museum material was used to illustrate how parts or whole areas of design could be removed and adapted to a specific problem or medium. In some instances designs were re-drawn to fit given shapes.

Emphasis was placed on designs suitable for use in line and potato cuts. These were to be used on Christmas wrappings, cards and seals; on luncheon mats, skirts; men's ties and in some instances for stencils and weaving.

NOTE: The Women's groups appeared to be particularly interested in fashion revival, and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of seeing Museum material at close range. Many of these women have not been inside a Museum, and in some instances have seldom been off the Island. This talk opened a new field for them, and we continued the talks further with a discussion on the functions of the Museum and its activities.

School talks were informal, illustrated in colour on the board by paper cutting (superimposing pieces one on the other) and in some instances simple brush technique served for an explanation."

Vera Clark

C

Reports from Special Departments

Report of the Chief Preparator

RESTORATION

The past year has been normal in respect to restoration of objects in the Museum's collection. The task has been mainly one of restoring objects on permanent display that have had unsightly restorations, or have weakened with age. This has also been the case with the great bulk of the material for special shows, and material lent to other institutions; it has been the rule to restore the objects so that they might be shown to the best advantage.

Restoration of the Paul Kane paintings has continued. Other commitments permitting, we are hoping to complete the work on these this next year.

In new acquisitions, we are glad to report the completion of the restoration of the two paintings from Tun-Huang acquired on loan last year. These are two of the earliest Chinese paintings known, and presented quite a problem to the restorer. They are now on display in the Chinese galleries, and in their present state of restoration are a wonderful acquisition to the Chinese Collection.

CONSERVATION

Considerable time and thought has been spent over methods of restoring and conserving the large furniture collection. The great bulk of the collection has suffered from easy access by the public, with the result that a great number of pieces have suffered loss of veneer, hardware, mouldings, etc. We have experimented with various means of overcoming such loss, and have completed the restoration of several pieces of furniture with very gratifying results. If funds and material are available we plan to restore a goodly number of pieces this coming year. By doing this we can defeat further damage by the public; but we cannot overcome the damage caused by the lack of controlled humidity. This is still a constant hazard, and has been increased by the type of windows recently placed in the east wing of the furniture gallery.

With a very slight curtailment of special exhibitions, progress has been made in cleaning the interior and materials of a large number of cases in the galleries. This is one task where we must not be lax, not only for the general appearance, but for conserving the objects on display. All materials on exhibition and in storage have again been examined, and treated where necessary. Twenty-one working days of two members of the Department was the time needed for the examination and treatment of textiles, skins, etc., alone.

HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

This past year has seen a great activity in historical and pioneer Museums. Where possible we have given freely of advice and help, but only in a very limited way. It was my pleasure to be asked to a meeting of the Historical Museums held at Jordan, Ontario, where I gave simple demonstrations on restoring and talked more fully on conservation of materials housed in historical Museums.

This was my first real contact with a large group who had primarily no technical knowledge, and I feel that there is a great need of training of personnel from the group on restoration of material in their care. I would heartily recommend that the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology give this group the help that is needed in the special fields. With their enthusiasm and zeal I feel they will make great progress towards the goal they have set if they are given proper advice and confidence. Among the historical Museums we have endeavoured to help this past year were Napanee and the proposed new Museum in Dundas; the former we have given advice on general plans and casing, the latter, advice only on suitable plans and materials of construction for a new building.

DISPLAY AND GALLERY RENOVATION

The renovation of the Eskimo galleries was completed this year in so far as the general display was concerned. There are many small details that have not been completed, such as fluorescent lights in the new style inset cases. It is hoped to complete the gallery this year.

Besides the Eskimo galleries there have been general changes in many of the galleries of Ethnology under the direction of Miss Caldwell. In all cases, Miss Caldwell has looked after the scientific accuracy of material to be displayed and labelled. The Preparator's staff have looked after the restoring of objects - where necessary - mounting, casing and installation. It is in this way only that any progress can be made in the general

renovation that is so much needed in many of the galleries.

Two new study rooms have been built in the former Prehistoric Gallery. This has been the major task of the cabinet shop during the year; they have also constructed six new display cases of the type used for special exhibition. This style of case has been used continually for Special Exhibitions; formerly it was necessary to use cases from the permanent display. To comprehend the fulness of these changes one has only to walk through the galleries and note the amount and variety of the work that has been done by the Preparator's staff (in many cases in its entirety).

To give some idea of the time necessary to renovate the galleries, careful check was kept on the time spent in planning and installing the Eskimo gallery. Planning and converting of cases to meet requirements took sixty working days of four men; installing exhibits, five weeks and four men. When the Preparator's staff is thus occupied the ordinary work of the Preparator's Department can seldom be carried out, as demands are continually coming in from other Departments as well. With the above in mind I would refer to the last two annual reports from this Department, expressing the need for a new Department to look after displays and special shows, etc.

SPECIAL SHOWS:

The following is a list of special exhibitions in which the Preparator's Department was responsible for plans of mounting, casing and installing:

the "West-East" show
the "Sweet Water" show
"Indonesia Today"

Besides this, help was given to install the annual exhibition of prints of the Society of Canadian Painter-Etchers and Engravers; prints from the Museum's collections, both Japanese and European, were changed three or more times during the year.

This Department is also responsible for planning and installing the Object of the Month exhibit.

Many objects and prints were especially displayed for the use of the staff and students of the College of Art.

The Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery has had three exhibitions during the year. The Preparator's staff is responsible for mounting, installing, and the general details of arranging the new shows.

SURVEY

In a work of this kind, which is purely to tabulate the work accomplished during the year, I find it completely impossible to state the volume of work that this Department is called on to perform. It is always a surprise, even to me as head of the Department, that this small group are continually able to accomplish the many tasks placed on their shoulders, without proper remuneration or recognition of their contribution to the establishment and stability of this vast institution.

The "esprit de corps" of the whole Department - which includes the cabinet-makers, on whom we depend for a great deal of specialised work - is what enables them to do the amount and variety of work they accomplish each day. In former reports I have pointed out the need for an increase of staff for the Department. The reason is obvious; if help is not acquired soon we will have to abandon entirely a number of tasks that we have been responsible for in the past, namely display, gallery renovation and special exhibitions. Next year the Department must spend more time and energy on conservation and restoration, regardless of all other commitments. The Preparator's staff, which is responsible for the security, conservation and restoration of all Museum material, can no longer be responsible for other commitments without the proposed increase in staff. There is not one object moved that does not involve this Department, which in many cases has the responsibility of the whole undertaking. There is not one day in the year that this Department can plan to do their own special work. It is ridiculous to state that one man, and only one man, should be responsible for the cleaning, waxing and polishing of all case exteriors in the Museum of Archaeology, but this is an absolute fact. This situation cannot continue any longer. If one views the relative time necessary for a gallery renovation, as mentioned in this report (see Display & Gallery Renovation section) it is clear that extra commitments, even if essential, must be curtailed to allow the time needed for our own departmental responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is essential this coming year that this Department should have its own clerical assistance. As head of the Department, I can no longer deal with the great variety of detail demanded from this Department. This is now the only Department without such assistance. I plan next year to let the personnel of the Department look after many of the arduous details. In these plans I am looking forward, of course, to an increase in the present staff of technicians, otherwise the proposed changes will be impossible. If the above plans can be

carried out it will allow me and my assistant restorer the time which is essential to make the many necessary restorations that are required on materials in the collections. Also it is planned to rebuild and equip the laboratory so that restoration and conservation may be carried out on the scientific level proper to the importance of this Museum.

William Todd

Report of the Chief Cataloguer

The past year in the Cataloguing Department has been one of ceaseless activity, and plans only partially accomplished. The volume of current routine work increased tremendously, especially in the field of loans going out, more than half of which were concentrated in the first four months of 1954. The new acquisitions numbered, catalogued, and their records completed and assembled, amounted to over 700. Material for identification was checked in and out from over 270 persons. There were 57 loan collections sent out, including exhibits to New York, San Francisco, Paris and The Hague. Arrangements were made for 35 shipments by express, the remainder by van or truck, and for about 12 shipments imported on approval. 26 objects were received on temporary loan, as well as the 77 maps for a special exhibition. The permanent loans numbered and catalogued amounted to 23.

The important job of renumbering and recataloguing the backlog material into the new system has been carried on - of necessity - only in connection with material going out on loan and involved in changes in gallery display, inventory and storage listings. Particularly concerned with this are the Bishop White and the George Crofts collections, the renumbering of which was continued in connection with the inventory of the Far Eastern galleries and Storage Room. Work on the recataloguing of the collections mentioned in the last report has been carried on all through the year when time permitted. The decision was made to curtail further renumbering as much as possible, in an attempt to get caught up, and also till such time as the records of all the Museum's collections have been transferred and integrated into the new system. With respect to the latter, work has really only been begun, due to the amount of current business, which had priority.

For speedier selection an improved method of filing the loan forms and papers was set up within the Department, also a better recording file for objects received temporarily.

Despite the earnest application and concern of

the Department staff, there is a limit to the amount of work two people can accomplish in one day, especially when it is difficult to determine which job is the more important or more urgent. With the Department so short-staffed it is virtually impossible to give enough continuous time to one project, uninterrupted by the urgency of another, and have anything to show for the effort. With the resignation of Mr. Vanstone at the end of May, from the Preparator's Department, we are now left with the added burden of painting the catalogue numbers on backlog material, and the large collections in current acquisitions.

The increased number of loans going out, of visitors with objects to be identified, and of new acquisitions (almost all gifts) indicate a definite upswing in the value of this Museum as a public institution. This being the case it would not be feasible to sacrifice any part of the services we give in order to reduce the quantity of business in the Department. At the same time any falling off in the quality of the work only results in inaccuracies which would be disastrous and intolerable where the keeping of records is concerned. A strong recommendation was made in the last report for a replacement of the second Assistant, who was transferred from this Department two years ago. The situation, far from improving, has worsened, and has reached the point where the morale of the present Department staff has been seriously affected. Another Assistant in this Department is indispensable, and must be acquired by fair means or foul before the present Assistant goes.

With the exception of the work done with the Far Eastern Department, a project for preparing "finding lists", planned for this year and outlined in the last report, has for obvious reasons not even been attempted.

A strong plea is made for an improvement in the ventilation of the Cataloguing Department room by the installation of casement windows in the lower section; similar to those in the office of the Chief Preparator. Before the heat is turned off in the spring, while the heat tunnel under the floor is cooling, and in the warm weather, the temperature in the room is in the 80's. Both in summer and winter the circulation of air is so poor as to be most unhealthy, especially during fumigation in rooms close by. The installation of a fan is recommended, but there is no substitute for fresh air.

There is every reason to suppose that in the coming year the volume of business in the Department will be equal to, if not greater than, that of the past year. Until more assistance is forthcoming the present staff of two has not made any plans for work in the coming year.

other than that of keeping abreast of current work and completing the other projects, however urgent, only as time permits.

Elizabeth Burt-Gerrans

Report of the Library

156 books were added to the Library by purchase during the year, and there were a number of gifts; especially the group of twenty books given by Mrs. F. W. Cowan. These are mostly on Canadiana subjects, and are valuable in many ways.

Mrs. Boshon from the Victoria College Library was employed for several weeks mending books. The repairs she made were badly needed; she worked well, and her charge was much more reasonable than that of any outside repairer or binder.

Report of the Textile Study Room

It will be noted from the annual report of 1952-3 that the numbers of students and classes last year were very high. This was due partly to the fact that the Department of Home Economics, as an emergency measure, asked the Textile Department to fill in for one of their staff members and give a series of lectures to the University of Toronto General Course. A falling off in attendance that has occurred this year is due to the changes in courses at the Ontario College of Art. As was stated in last year's report, the distance between the Wood Estate and the Museum is too great to make classes here practical for these students.

The Study Room, however, is being continually visited by the general public seeking information. Of particular interest this year was a visit payed the Department by Mrs. Berceller (Cornelia) who came to see our costumes of the Empire period, which she was planning to feature in her spring show of 1954.

One of the main projects in the Study Room in the past year was the recataloguing, redating of some of the pieces, and checking of the costume collection. In the course of this work the cupboard and drawer number of each piece was listed in our filing system, thus making material more readily available. We attempted to list things in our files under the following headings:

- Canadian Costumes
- Material best suited for display
- Lecture purposes

Material less useful for Study Room activities was put into dead storage, thus allowing more space for incoming material. This project lasted from June until mid September; and there are still a few details to be completed.

The students of the Ontario College of Art under Miss Ruth Home made use of material from the Wearne Collection (painted and printed chintzes, etc.) and studied the development of design in Textiles from our examples of velvet and brocade in relation to a problem set. Their course also included a lecture given by Miss Clark on 18th and 19th century costume and its development of design and construction. They studied the relation of design as applied to costume, style and cut of costume. The students did actual copies of materials under the supervision of Miss McCrae from the College of Art.

K. B. Brett

Report of the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Collection

The Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery has had a busy and successful year. Visitors numbered 10,135 for the eleven months ending June 1st, 1954, and public interest has been increasing in all respects in a most satisfactory manner. The use of the Gallery for school groups by the Division of Education of the Royal Ontario Museum has been found to be a valuable teaching aid, and increases yearly.

The landscaping of the front of the building with rare shrubs and evergreens, designed by H. Dunington-Grubb and executed by the Sheridan Nurseries as a gift from Dr. Sigmund Samuel, has greatly improved the appearance of the building.

Between seven and eight hundred photographs on microfilm of pictures in the collection were taken at the expense of the American publication "Year", which is bringing out a history of America with over 2000 illustrations. It is expected that many pictures from the Sigmund Samuel Collection will be included. Negotiations are also being conducted with two Canadian publishers regarding the use of pictures from the collection in Canadian school text-books.

A reception and tea was held in the Gallery by the Alumni Association of University College, with an attendance of about three hundred. A lecture on Canadian History in Pictures was given by the Curator. An illustrated lecture on "Impressions of Canadian History by Brush and Lithography" was also given by the Curator at

the request of University Extension, and was well attended,

The following exhibitions have been held:

July to November 14th: "QUEBEC AND MONTREAL PICTURED"
 November to March 16th: "HISTORICAL PORTRAITS AND RECENT
 ACQUISITIONS"
 March: "EARLY HISTORICAL SCENES IN CANADA"

The latter exhibition includes the splendid collection of Krieghoff oil paintings from Dr. Sigmund Samuel's residence, and the Paul Kane oil paintings and sketches from the Main Building of the Museum. As it is the most ambitious and interesting exhibition put on as yet, it has been kept on longer than usual because of the great interest shown by the public.

About a hundred coloured lantern slides of pictures in the collection have been made, all in 2" x 2" size, which has been found by experience to be the most satisfactory.

An article on Dr. Samuel as a collector of Canadiana is being written by James Bannerman, with some consultation with the Gallery staff, and it will be published by MacLean's Magazine.

The conversion of the building to 60 cycle electrical current is now complete, and this makes possible the use of more modern equipment.

F. St.G. Spendlove

D

Recommendations

I am aware that so long as Mr. Grant Glassco's recommendations await implementation or rejection there is little point in my making any on any subject he will cover. I therefore omit the usual section I have included here in past reports. There are, however, two other and particular matters, very different from each other, to which I wish to draw the Board's special attention. I consider that action on both these is urgent in the interests of the Museum and its staff.

Chinese Library

Affairs in the Chinese Library reached a crisis during the year. The crisis is in part a conflict of personalities between Miss Fernald on one side and Profe-

ssor Dobson on the other. Deeper and more serious than that, it is a conflict of policy between the Museum and the teaching Department. In my opinion it requires satisfactory resolution.

Dr. Mu's Library was given to the Museum, but it was intended as a scholar's working library, and the gift was meant by at least one of the four donors to be for the use of a school of East Asiatic Studies, to be established in the Museum at a later date. Neither the Museum staff nor its visitors make adequate use of the Mu Chinese Library, and I do not think we can reasonably refuse to do everything to help the Department of East Asiatic Studies do so. Professor Dobson received a large grant of money from the Carnegie Corporation about a year ago for additions to the Library. The Library is not a Museum exhibit. Above all, it is not a fossil, and I suspect that it would be against the original intentions of all the donors to allow it to become one by putting difficulties in Professor Dobson's way in incorporating these newer books into the older ones forming Dr. Mu's own library.

The conflict I have referred to above is partly one arising from the exceedingly cramped conditions of work. The members of the Museum staff, the members of the teaching staff, students, and any other visitors coming to either of these two have all to be accommodated in the Library itself. It is little wonder that tempers are frayed, and I do not myself believe that any permanent solution can be found on the basis of both Museum and teaching staff remaining in the one present library.

The solution I would propose is one I put to the Board in a memorandum written a number of months ago. Its basic feature is the addition of a second floor to the present Chinese tomb. When that is completed I suggest moving the teaching department and Dr. Mu's Library with its modern additions to the new site. Adequate room would be provided there for everything the teaching department could expect, and adequate room would remain in the present library for the Museum staff. The archaeological books should be left in the present library. They were not part of Dr. Mu's Library - they are in fact a mixture of Museum purchases and gifts to the Museum from other sources - and really pose no problem. Whatever happens to Dr. Mu's books these must remain in our sole charge.

If that move were made the Museum staff would be adequately housed, while the Mu Library, which was given to the Museum, would still be housed under the Museum's roof. In this way the two obligations imposed on us by the original gift can be met - and in my view in this way only.

Ground Floor Galleries

Attached is a report of the Chief Preparator on the present state of the Ground Floor Galleries and the conditions under which the staff has to work there. I do not think that effective treatment of this need be at all difficult; indeed the only reason holding it up is the Museum's complete lack of the money required. I ask the Board to make a Special Grant for this purpose.

"Again I report the excessive heat in the ground floor offices and work rooms of Archaeology. In the spring and fall, when the outside temperature is 60% or more, these rooms average 85°. If the outside temperature rises above 65° that of these rooms rises above 85°, and with the exception of room 81 there is no way to relieve the unbearable heat.

The heat, of course, is from the tunnels that run under these rooms and provide a perfect radiation. By actual test, the floor temperature was a constant 95°. In all of these rooms but No. 81 the window openings are near the ceiling, and when open provide no movement of air. In room 81 the windows are at sill level and do provide a slight movement of fresh air, but even this is not sufficient for good working conditions. The so-called air conditioning that was installed in this area is absolutely useless; the only time of year the air vent has any effect is in mid winter, when it does provide a little moist air for the rooms.

As all these rooms are work rooms, where Museum objects are stored, restored, catalogued, etc., the heat is a constant threat of damage to many objects, some of which do not belong to the Museum, but are on loan, in for examination, etc. These are the only rooms in Archaeology where such work can be carried out, and the heat is a great hazard in the attempt to conserve material left in the care of the Museum. For example, in room 80 the morning temperature ranges from 90° to 95°, and as well as extensive storage there is work being done here on objects of bone, wood, skins, shell, etc., which will suffer irreparable damage under prevailing conditions. We have no other storage space to which we can move the material.

Finally, it is impossible to expect personnel to work under existing conditions, as it is quite impossible to concentrate in such an atmosphere".

William Todd

I also include here a reference to the condition of the East Wall of the Original Wing of the Museum. I

have referred to this both in previous reports and in special recommendations made to the Board at various times. During the year work on this was undertaken and completed by the Superintendent's Department. The Superintendent's answer to the problem I have many times described was to block up all 13 east windows on all exhibition floors and rely on other windows in the building for the necessary ventilation. This is a solution which had already been considered and rejected by the Chief Preparator and myself. I regret very much that it was recommended by the survey made on the Superintendent's orders, and that it has been put into force. I must stress that this was done without consultation, against the known wishes and advice, and over the heads, of the Museum staff members concerned.

Our reasons for rejecting this solution arose, and arise still, over the matter of ventilation. It is obvious to us, and I think it might have been to those who made the Superintendent's survey, that our collections, especially the wood furniture in the Main Floor galleries, require ventilation to keep them in good condition. The solution of blocking up the windows makes proper ventilation impossible. It had been our opinion that the adoption of such a solution was bound to lead to a deterioration of the furniture, especially of the veneer and inlay. It is with sorrow and indignation that I have to report to the Board that this deterioration is already visible.

E

Principal Acquisitions

1. Far Eastern Department

Stone sculpture of a Bodhisattva, in high relief, from T'ien-lung Shan cave temple near T'ai-yuan, Shansi. T'ang, 8th century A.D. Gift of the Estate of Reuben Wells Leonard.

Hornbill head, with beak carved with palace scene. 19th century. Belt buckle of carved hornbill ivory, 18th century. Gift of Miss Alice Boney.

Fitted box with collection of 24 small Chinese bronze figures, mainly Buddhist, from private shrine groups. Gift of J. L. Grant and Ward-Price Galleries.

- 3 Buddhist Priest Robes, Japanese
 - (1. brocaded green silk, 18th century
 2. cream satin brocaded in blue, green, white and gold, mid 18th century

3. pale blue silk brocaded in dark blues, pastels and white with large fret in paper-gold, 1st half of the 18th century)
Gift of Mrs. Edgar J. Stone.

Dragon Robe, dark blue silk with gold couched five-clawed dragons and multi-coloured designs in Peking knot. 19th century.

2. Ethnology Department

Collection of photographs of Indonesian life.
Gift of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia

Collection of archaeological material, mainly Laurentian. Bequest of A. MacMahon.

Collection of ethnological material from the Yukon.
Gift of Mr. D. S. F. Cameron.

Collection of Eskimo drawings from Baffin Land.
Gift of Miss Lorna Durst.

Collection of ethnographical material from Liberia.
Purchase.

3. Near Eastern Department

Arabic manuscript book, a work concerning the Companions of the Prophet. Early 18th century.
Gift of Mrs. A. R. Goldie.

Bronze scimitar with ivory-inlaid hilt. Syro-Egyptian, about 1300 B.C. Purchase

Statuette group, steatite. Egyptian, probably about 1400 B.C. Purchase.

4. Greek and Roman Department

Bronze figurine of a Greek comic actor. Purchase.

Centuripe vase, about 2nd century B.C. Purchase.

5. Modern European Department

Royal Doulton plate. Gift of Mr. W. H. Sandham.

Scottish iron cruzie, 18th century.
Gift of Mr. Norman Shenstone.

Agate jewel case, late 18th to early 19th century.
Gift of Miss Hettie May Austin

Worcester bowl, Dr. Wall, 3rd quarter of the 18th century.
Gift of Mrs. Hugh Dennison.

Alcock vase, English, about 1840.
Gift of Mrs. Hugh Dennison

Wine glass, English, first quarter of the 18th century.
Gift of Miss Esther Williams.

Wine glass, English, third quarter of the 18th century.
Gift of Miss Esther Williams

Green glazed dish, contemporary American.
Gift of Mr. W. B. Dalton.

Table fountain, Victorian. Gift of Ward Price.

Frankenthal plate, mid 18th century. Purchase.

5 pieces of German porcelain: Purchase.
(figure group, Meissen(?))
Meissen cup and saucer with chinoiserie decoration,
about 1735
six-sided tea-caddy, Meissen, late 18th century
Meissen saucer, second quarter of the 18th century
five-sided saucer, Meissen, about 1730)

Ivory Madonna and Child. Purchase.

Jar with elephant knob lid, celadon glaze, contemporary
American. Purchase.

Salt dish, celadon glaze, contemporary American. Purchase.

Knife and fork, early 18th century, continental. Purchase.

6. Textile Department

Embroidered christening robe, English, early 18th century.
Gift of the Misses Ormsby.

Embroidered coat, probably Persian, 18th to 19th century.
Gift of Mrs. R. A. Hamilton.

Lady's dress of the 1890's. Gift of Miss Amice Calverley.

Lady's coats of the 1920's. Gifts of Mrs. H. B. Burnham

Nursemaid's uniform with cape, dress and bonnet of the
early 20th century. Gift of Mrs. C.D.H. MacAlpine.

Lady's hat, Toronto, early 1900's.
Gift of Mrs. C. D. MacAlpine.

Sleeveless bodice, skirt and belt, made in Toronto.
Gift of Mrs. C. D. MacAlpine.

Handwoven patterned linen tablecloth, Pennsylvania,
19th century. Purchase.

Complex twill coverlet, from near Kitchener, Ontario.
Purchase.

Handwoven linen tablecloth, Vineland, Lincoln County,
Ontario. The date 1865 embroidered on it.
Gift of Mrs. D. C. Wills.

Length of doublefaced twill carpetting, Ontario, third
quarter of the 19th century. Gift of Mr. D.L. Isbister.

7. Canadiana Department

A new portrait of Dr. Sigmund Samuel by Archibald Barnes,
R.C.A.

A very important portrait of Major General James Wolfe by
Joseph Highmore.

Portrait in oils of Charles II by Sir Peter Lely, from
the collection of Sir Francis Burdett, Bt. This is
a companion picture to the portrait of Prince Rupert
by Lely, acquired last year.

3 most important oil paintings by Cornelius Krieghoff
acquired from Miss Helen Norton. These are among
the finest Krieghoff paintings known, and are a
very valuable addition to the collection.

6 oil paintings by W. H. Bartlett of Quebec subjects,
about 1840

2 oil paintings of Fort Garry, 19th century.

An extremely important group of 100 water-colours, inclu-
ding almost fifty by George Heriot (1795-1816); 14
pictures by J. P. Cockburn (1829-30), 18 sketches by
Lord Cathcart (1847), and 45 by Edwin Whitefield, as
well as a large number of Whitefield's pencil sketches,
and a very fine proof (before letters) of Whitefield's
celebrated print of Montreal (1850).

Valuable books and maps have been acquired, notably "De
Ora Antarctica" (A. Vespucci) 1506, one of about 15
copies known; Wytfliet's Atlas of America; (the first
atlas of America ever published, 1597); W. Faden's
Atlas of America, 1777; a Map of New France based on

Champlain's explorations, 1677; a set of the briefs and maps submitted to the Emperor of Germany, William I, as arbitrator, by Great Britain and the United States in the matter of the Oregon-British Columbia Boundary, 1873.

Ontario curly-maple corner cupboard.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. F. Chubb.

Cherry, mahogany and bird's eye maple table, made in Napanee about 1812.
Gift of the R. Laidlaw Lumber Co. Ltd.

Pine armoire, Quebec, 18th century, and an X-framed chair from Quebec, 18th century or earlier.
Gift of the R. Laidlaw Lumber Co. Ltd.

The Langdon Collection of Canadian table Silver in the Quebec Gallery has been added to by further gifts from Mr. John Langdon.

